

# INTERNATIONAL RESCUE COMMITTEE

## NIGER

Reducing vulnerability and building resilience for Nigeriens affected by reoccurring food and nutrition crises

April 1, 2015 – May 31, 2015

<b>Contract Number</b>	AID-OFDA-G-14-00089
<b>Amount of Funding:</b>	\$800,000
<b>Time Period of Agreement:</b>	June 1, 2014 – May 31, 2015
<b>Country:</b>	Niger
<b>Location:</b>	Filingué region, Niger
<b>Number of Beneficiaries:</b>	Direct: 33,176
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*VSLA meeting in Hanissimourou*



*Setting on pumps in Faria Beri by a recipient*

<b>Sector: NUTRITION</b>				
<b>Sub-sector: Management of Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM)</b>				
<b>Indicator</b>	<b>Baseline</b>	<b>Target (by end of project)</b>	<b>Achieved Q4</b>	<b>Cumulative</b>
Number of health care providers and volunteers trained in the prevention and management of SAM, by sex and by age	60 health workers; 400 Community Health Workers (CHW) trained in the prevention and management of SAM	104 additional health workers and 600 additional Community Health Workers trained in the prevention and management of SAM	600 Community Health Workers (CHW) received refresher training in the prevention and management of SAM.	84 additional health workers (42 female and 42 male) and 600 additional CHWs (128 female and 472 male) trained in the prevention and management of SAM
Number of sites established/rehabilitated for outpatient care	30 sites (health posts) established/ rehabilitated for outpatient care	49 sites established/ rehabilitated for outpatient care	No new additional sites were established/ rehabilitated for outpatient care	50 sites established/ rehabilitated for outpatient care
Number of beneficiaries treated for SAM, by sex and by age	14,147 treated for SAM, 6,932 female (49%) and 7,215 male (51%), age 0-59 months	7,185 additional treated for SAM, 3,521 female (49%) and 3,664 male (51%), age 0-59 months	3, 174 additional treated for SAM, 1,858 female (59%) and 1,316 male (41%), age 0-59 months	12, 546 additional treated for SAM, 6,979 female (56%) and 5,567 male (44%), age 0-59 months

Rates of admission, default, death, cure, relapse, non-response/transfer and length of stay	31.8% or more children found to be severely malnourished admitted to OTPs; default rate of 7%; death rate of 0.21%; cure rate of 91%; relapse rate not available; nonresponse-transfer not available; length of stay of 5 weeks; coverage rate of 31.8% children with SAM	50% or more children found to be severely malnourished admitted to OTPs; default rate of 15% or less; death rate of less than 10% (SC) 5% (OTP); cure rate of 75% or above; relapse rate of 5%; nonresponse-transfer rate of 0%; length of stay less than 6 weeks; coverage rate of 50% (in rural areas as outlined in Sphere)	28.7% of children found to be severely malnourished admitted to OTPs available by end of project; default rate of 3.50%; death rate of 0.22% (SC) 3, 77% (OTP); cure rate of 93.86%; relapse rate of 8.91%; non response-transfer rate of 1,09%; length of stay 5,15 weeks; coverage rate of 28.7%	28.7% of children found to be severely malnourished admitted to OTPs available by end of project; default rate of 3.50%; death rate of 0.22% (SC) 3,77% (OTP); cure rate of 93.86%; relapse rate of 8.91%; non response-transfer rate of 1,09%; length of stay 5,15 weeks; coverage rate of 28.7%
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**Sub-sector: Infant and Young Child Feeding and Behavior Change**

Indicator	Baseline	Target (by end of project)	Achieved Q4	Cumulative
Number and percentage of infants 0-<6 months of age who are exclusively breastfed	Data not available	40% of infants 0-<6 months of age are exclusively breastfed	33.3% of infants 0-<6 months of age are exclusively breastfed	33.3% of infants 0-<6 months of age are exclusively breastfed
Number and percentage of children 6-<24 months of age who receive foods daily from 4 or more food groups (to achieve minimum dietary diversity)	Data not available	30% of children 6-<24 months of age who receive foods daily from 4 or more food groups (to achieve minimum dietary diversity)	20.9% of children 6-<24 months of age who receive foods daily from 4 or more food groups (to achieve minimum dietary diversity)	20.9% of children 6-<24 months of age who receive foods daily from 4 or more food groups (to achieve minimum dietary diversity)
Number of people receiving behavior change interventions, by sex and age (0-11 months, 1-4 years, 5-14 years, 15-49 years, 50-60 years, and 60+ years)	0 people receiving behavior change interventions	16,887 people receiving behavior change interventions, by sex and age (0-11 months, 1-4 years, 5-14 years, 15-49 years, 50-60 years, and 60+ years)	3,544 people receiving behavior change interventions (2902 women, 642 men; 3241 aged 15-49 years, 303 aged 50-60 years)	12,916 people receiving behavior change interventions (11337 women, 1579 men; 12,144 aged 15-49 years, 772 aged 50-60 years)

**Notes on Nutrition sector activities:**

- In this quarter, 3,174 additional children were treated for SAM, 1,858 female (59%) and 1,316 male (41%), age 0-59 months.
- 600 Community Health Workers (CHW) received refresher training during monthly meeting and follow up visits. As a result of underestimating capital costs related to training, the IRC had to reduce the target number of health workers trained, from 104 to 84.
- To aid with sensitizations, two trainings on IYCF practices were conducted by the Ministry of Health (MoH) for 29 project staff. All health facilities in targeted villages were equipped with behavior change communication (BCC) tools for IYCF, so health workers are able to sensitize all caretakers bringing their children in for treatment of Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM). Before each cash transfer distribution, beneficiaries, community members, local authorities, and religious leaders who were present to monitor the cash distribution process received sensitizations focusing on WASH and breastfeeding practices. These awareness sessions were also conducted through a community sensitization to target all the community members.
- 3,544 people received behavior change interventions (2902 women, 642 men; 3241 aged 15-49 years, 303 aged 50-60 years) during this quarter.



*Awareness session on in Maikogo*

- To determine the coverage rate of severely malnourished children, the IRC conducted a survey using the SLEAC methodology in 2014; whereas, in 2013 the SQUEAC methodology was used to establish the baseline, which can account for the difference in baseline and outcome performances. In August 2015, the IRC intends to conduct a second SLEAC survey that would allow greater appreciation and interpretation of real progress made on this indicator.
- Delays related to training of health works and community volunteers subsequently delayed the start of implementing behavior change activities, thereby impact the total number of people reached under this activity.

### **Sector: WATER, SANITATION, AND HYGIENE (WASH)**

#### **Sub-sector: Hygiene Promotion**

<b>Indicator</b>	<b>Baseline</b>	<b>Target(by end of project)</b>	<b>Achieved Q4</b>	<b>Cumulative</b>
Number of people receiving direct hygiene promotion (excluding mass media campaigns and without double-counting)	0 people receiving direct hygiene promotion	16,887 people receiving direct hygiene promotion (excluding mass media campaigns and without double-counting)	3,544 people receiving direct hygiene promotion (excluding mass media campaigns and without double-counting)	13,470 people receiving direct hygiene promotion (excluding mass media campaigns and without double-counting)
Number water and hygiene committees active within three to six months after reactivation/creation	0 water and hygiene committees active	49 water and hygiene committees active within three to six months after reactivation/creation	49 water and hygiene committees active within three to six months after reactivation/creation	49 water and hygiene committees active within three to six months after reactivation/creation
Number and proportion of health facilities with soap and water at the hand washing stations	7 (18%) of health facilities have soap and water at hand washing stations	35 (90%) of health facilities have soap and water at the hand washing stations	40 (100%) health facility has soap and water at the hand washing stations	40 (100%) of health facilities have soap and water at the hand washing stations

#### **Sub-sector: Sanitation Infrastructure**


<b>Indicator</b>	<b>Baseline</b>	<b>Target (by end of project)</b>	<b>Achieved Q4</b>	<b>Cumulative</b>
Number of people directly benefitting from this sanitation infrastructure program	0 people directly benefitting from this sanitation infrastructure program	24,170 people directly benefitting from this sanitation infrastructure program	12,932 people directly benefitting from this sanitation infrastructure program	31,854 people directly benefitting from this sanitation infrastructure program
Number of hand washing facilities present within the target population	38 hand washing facilities are present within the target population	39 hand washing facilities are present within the target population	40 hand washing facilities are present within the target population	40 hand washing facilities are present within the target population
Number and proportion of health facility latrines completed and clean	No data available	39 (100%) of health facility latrines are completed and clean	39 (100%) of health facility latrines are completed and clean	39 (100%) of health facility latrines are completed and clean

#### **Notes on WASH sector activities:**

- Construction of 8 latrines blocks (2 latrines per block, including separate latrines for men and women with a hand washing station) were completed during this quarter
- Water and hygiene committee members were established and a focal point from the Committee of Health Management was appointed to ensure cleaning and maintenance of latrines. The regular delivery of soap has been maintained for 40 health centers.
- 13,470 people benefited from awareness sessions on hand washing, including caretakers of children with SAM and recipients of cash distributions.



Latrine

Sector: ECONOMIC RECOVERY AND MARKET SYSTEMS				
Sub-sector: Livelihoods Restoration				
Indicator	Baseline	Target (by end of project)	Achieved Q4	Cumulative
Number of people assisted through livelihood restoration activities, disaggregated by sex	0 people assisted through livelihood restoration activities	500 women assisted through livelihood restoration activities	500 women assisted through livelihood restoration activities	500 women assisted through livelihood restoration activities
Percent of beneficiaries reporting their livelihoods restored within three to six months after receiving support	0 beneficiaries reporting their livelihoods restored within three to six months after receiving support	85% of beneficiaries reporting their livelihoods restored within three to six months after receiving support	97% of beneficiaries reporting their livelihoods restored within three to six months after receiving support	97% of beneficiaries reporting their livelihoods restored within three to six months after receiving support
Total USD amount channeled into the program area through sub-sector activities	0 USD channeled into the program area through sub-sector activities	\$111,000 USD amount channeled into the program area through sub-sector activities	\$102,375 USD amount channeled into the program area through sub-sector activities	\$102,375 USD amount channeled into the program area through sub-sector activities
Sub-sector: Microfinance				
Indicator	Baseline	Target (by end of project)	Achieved Q4	Cumulative
Number of people, disaggregated by sex, or MSEs newly receiving financial services or continuing to receive financial services due to USAID/OFDA support	0 people or MSEs newly receiving financial services or continuing to receive financial services due to USAID/OFDA support	500 women newly receiving financial services or continuing to receive financial services due to USAID/OFDA support	30 women newly receiving financial services or continuing to receive financial services due to USAID/OFDA support	917 women newly receiving financial services or continuing to receive financial services due to USAID/OFDA support
Percentage of financial service accounts/groups supported by USAID/OFDA that are functioning properly	0% financial service accounts/groups supported by USAID/OFDA that are functioning properly	90% of financial service accounts/groups supported by USAID/OFDA that are functioning properly	93% of financial service accounts/groups supported by USAID/OFDA that are functioning properly	97.7% of financial service accounts/groups supported by USAID/OFDA that are functioning properly
Total USD amount channeled into the program area through sub-sector activities	0 USD channeled into the program area through sub-sector activities	\$0 USD amount channeled into the program area through sub-sector activities	\$0 USD amount channeled into the program area through sub-sector activities	\$0 USD amount channeled into the program area through sub-sector activities
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Two cash transfers (\$120 in total for this period) were distributed to 500 very poor women with a child under 5 years old and was completed by ASUSU SA, a micro-finance institution and subawardee of the IRC. In April, post distribution monitoring (PDM) surveys were completed with a random sample of 155 beneficiaries of cash transfers. Key results showed that: a) 97% of respondents were satisfied with the process, sensitization and period of the distributions; b) 84% of respondents thought that the amount (\$65) was acceptable to meet the needs of the household, and 16% of households thought that it must be increased; c) 97% of children less than 5 years old received at least 3 meals per day after the distribution of cash, compared to 63% before the distribution; d) 29% of households were able to save money, an average of \$3 saved per household per month; e) 48% of cash recipients responded that they decided how the money was spent on their own, and 41% said that the spending decisions were made by both the recipient (all recipients were female) and her husband. 11 % reported their husbands made spending decisions without their input.</li> </ul>			 <p>Beneficiary receiving cash transfer in Banikosse</p>	



- 30 VSLAs were established in 14 targeted villages, which included 873 women. All members voluntarily self-selected after information sessions in each village. Each group received a toolkit to start the activities, and 30 community members were trained in the training curriculum and to be group facilitators. All groups have begun weekly saving meetings and started the loan process in January 2015. At present, 28 VSLAs are all functioning according to their individual constitutions. 2 groups decided to share the savings among members because the majority of the members would leave the village during the lean season (June to September) to start crops in their family camps away from their village. The members of these 2 VSLA groups mentioned that they will restart their activities when they will be back at home in the village, while the remaining 28 groups are continuing activities. One new spontaneous VSLA group with 30 women was established and supported by IRC and received a toolkit to start their activities.
- To improve the data management of VSLA activities, IRC Niger has started a Mobile Monitoring Initiative (MMI) for the VSLAs. Eleven program staff were trained to use mobile phone applications and received a smart phone to collect VSLA data during each follow up visit. Compiled data from April shows total savings of \$12,393 with 319 loans (\$4,447 in total) being taken by members to establish or reinforce their own income generating activities such as fattening of small ruminants, or selling doughnuts and small kitchen condiments.
- One challenge noted during the implementation period was the inability to include interest rates, which are not allowed under Islamic law. The IRC facilitated the VSLA establishment process, but was not prescriptive in the set-up of constitutions for the individual groups. This allowed the members to develop their own solutions to the issue, and most VSLAs decided to manage this by having a social fund contribution, which supports members during shocks and thus contributes to their communal resilience building, rather than implementing a required interest rate. Low literacy levels posed another challenge, which members have addressed by introducing 'in-kind' record keeping e.g. through collecting stones or sticks, which allows them to keep track of their investments without relying on written records. Members could later transcribe the 'in-kind' records to keep a log if they so choose.



Beneficiaries receiving VSLA toolkit in Hanisimourou

## Sector: AGRICULTURE AND FOOD SECURITY

### Sub-sector: Improving Agricultural Production/Food Security

Indicator	Baseline	Target (by end of project)	Achieved Q4	Cumulative
Projected increase in number of months of food self-sufficiency due to distributed seed systems/agricultural input for beneficiary households	0 increased months of food self-sufficiency prior to distributed seed systems/agricultural input for beneficiary households	2 increased months of food self-sufficiency due to distributed seed systems/agricultural input for beneficiary households	4 increased months of food self-sufficiency due to distributed seed systems/agricultural input for beneficiary households	4 increased months of food self-sufficiency due to distributed seed systems/agricultural input for beneficiary households
Number of people benefiting from seed systems/agricultural input activities, disaggregated by sex	0 people benefiting from seed systems/agricultural input activities	500 women benefit from seed systems/agricultural input activities	500 women benefited from seed systems/agricultural input activities	500 women benefited from seed systems/agricultural input activities
Number and percentage of beneficiaries demonstrating knowledge of appropriate crop protection procedures	Data not available	400 (80%) of beneficiaries demonstrate knowledge of appropriate crop protection procedures	479 (96%) of beneficiaries demonstrated knowledge of appropriate crop protection procedures	479 (96%) of beneficiaries demonstrated knowledge of appropriate crop protection procedures

**Notes on Agriculture and Food Security sector activities:**

- Moringa seeds were distributed to 500 women, selected from 5 villages, who have children under 5 years old, and trainings were conducted in small groups comprised of 25 to 30 participants on cooking and conservation. During the post-training assessment (as pre- and post-test), 479 beneficiaries demonstrated acquiring new knowledge in the production and conservation of *Moringa*.
- The IRC provided cultivable land (0.5 hectares) to the 500 women selected. This land has access to water, and each village received two pumps to facilitate the collection of water.
- Weekly follow-up visits and monthly post-training monitoring meetings were completed in each village to assess the progress of crops and to reinforce aspects of the training; provided by agents of the Ministry of Agriculture.



*Training on Moringa cooking in Eggrou*